



State Senator Ron Jelinek
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Senior Update

Serving the 21st District

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Common Retail Drug Pricing in Michigan: *Top Prescribed Drugs in Michigan*

In Michigan and throughout the country the high cost of prescription drugs continues to be a major issue for everyone.

In the interest of providing information to consumers to help them make good choices about the purchase of much-needed prescription drugs, the State of Michigan has developed a new resource to help make decision making easier.

Provided here on this page are average prices for the top 25 most commonly used prescription drugs in Michigan, as reported to the state by First Health Services Corporation.

The following represent the average usual and customary price for a one-month supply of the 25 most commonly prescribed medications paid for by the medical assistance programs administered by MDCH.

You could be paying between 5% and 50% less for these medications by using generic drugs or belonging to a discount program. For more information on drug discount programs, go to one of the following sites:

www.michigan.gov/mdch PH: 1.866.755.6479
www.togetherrxaccess.com PH: 1.800.444.4106
www.pparxmi.org PH: 1.888.477.2669

DRUG NAME	DOSAGE	USUAL & CUSTOMARY
ACETAMINOPHEN W/CODEINE	30-300 MG	\$ 18.27
ACTONEL	35 MG	\$ 86.33
ALBUTEROL	90 MCG	\$ 27.33
FLUOXETINE HCL	20 MG	\$ 33.53
FUROSEMIDE	40 MG	\$ 8.01
GABAPENTIN	300 MG	\$ 37.67
HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE	25 MG	\$ 8.64
HYDROCODONE W/ACETAMINOPHEN	750 MG	\$ 15.47
IBUPROFEN	800 MG	\$ 9.48
LEXAPRO	10 MG	\$ 83.30
LIPITOR	10 MG	\$ 87.07
LISINAPRIL	10 MG	\$ 26.25
LORATADINE	10 MG	\$ 27.64
METFORMIN HCL	500 MG	\$ 18.07
METOPROLOL TARTRATE	50 MG	\$ 14.00
NASONEX	50 MCG	\$ 90.18
NEXIUM	20 MG	\$159.88
NORVASC	10 MG	\$ 75.82
PLAVIX	75 MG	\$149.53
POTASSIUM CHLORIDE	10 MEQ	\$ 11.13
PREVACID	15 MG	\$152.92
PROPOXYPHENE NAPSYLATE W/APAP	100-650 MG	\$ 15.20
RANITIDINE HCL	150 MG	\$ 62.86
SEROQUEL	25 MG	\$ 64.18
ZOLOFT	100 MG	\$ 92.14

Dear Friend:

As your State Senator, I have spent a great deal of time listening to your concerns. In particular, I am aware of the need for senior-friendly tax procedures for those who fill out paper income tax returns, as well as the option to defer the due date of summer taxes.

I am pleased to say that these issues are being addressed, and I continue to work on your behalf to ensure that important senior-related items come to successful resolutions.

Please know that I always look forward to hearing your comments on issues that matter most to you. Thanks to your involvement, I continue to make a difference here in Lansing.

Sincerely,

Ron Jelinek
State Senator

Adult Immunizations – *Protect Yourself!*

Vaccines that protect against communicable diseases are readily available for such common adult illnesses as influenza (flu), pneumococcal disease and hepatitis B. Some of these illnesses, once contracted, do not have a cure, and all may cause serious health problems or even death. Vaccines are generally considered to be both safe and effective.

Due to the development of new strains of virus, it is recommended that everyone who is 50 or older should get a flu shot every year, in the fall. (You cannot catch flu or pneumonia from the shots.)

It is also recommended that everyone age 65 or older should get a shot of pneumococcal vaccine. People who are younger than 65 should get the pneumococcal vaccine if they have: diabetes, heart, liver, or kidney disease or problems with their immune system.

It has been reported that 95 percent of all tetanus

(lockjaw) cases occur in adults and that diphtheria can cause paralysis, heart failure and inability to breathe. To maintain immunity against these infectious diseases, booster doses of tetanus and diphtheria vaccines (usually given as a combination Td vaccine) are required every ten years.

Hepatitis B is a liver disease that spreads by contact with blood or body fluids of a person who has hepatitis B. It attacks the liver and can cause serious illness or even death. The hepatitis B vaccine is administered in three doses given over a six-month period. It is important to note that many people who have hepatitis B don't show any symptoms. A blood test is the only way to know for sure.

For assistance in obtaining any of these vaccines, you should contact your doctor, your local health department or 1.888.76.SHOTS.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

A durable power of attorney for health care is a legally recognized document through which you can appoint another person (called a patient advocate) to make medical treatment and related personal care decisions on your behalf. Your patient advocate could be a spouse, an adult close friend, or other individual. You should

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choose someone you can trust to handle such a responsibility and who is willing to serve as your patient advocate. (Your advocate must be at least 18 years old.)

Your patient advocate can make decisions only if you are determined to be medically unable to take part in medical treatment decisions. Examples of such inability include: unconsciousness, serious confusion, delusion, or dementia.

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care allows your patient advocate to make decisions on your behalf, such as:

- Consent or refusal to receive medical treatment;
- Arranging for home health care/day care;
- Admittance to a nursing home/home for the aged; and/or
- Organizing medical and personal care services and payment for those services, using your funds.

A patient advocate does not have the power to handle all your property and finances. To do so requires other legal documents, which should be prepared with the help of an attorney. It is important to

remember that a patient advocate does not have the authority to withhold or withdraw medical treatment if it is likely to cause your death, unless you have specifically given the patient advocate such optional authority to make such life and death decisions on your behalf, in your Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

If you would like a copy of the **Peace of Mind** booklet, which includes further information on the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, please contact my office.

Have You Considered Working as a Precinct Inspector?

If you are friendly, resourceful, and interested in helping your community, you may want to become a precinct inspector. A precinct inspector is paid to assist voters at the polls on Election Day.

To be eligible, you must be a registered voter of the city or township and not a challenger or a candidate for office, or a member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Anyone convicted of a felony or an elections crime may not serve.

If you are interested in applying, please contact your city or township clerk for more information.

RECEIVE FREE E-LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!

If you would like to receive periodic legislative updates via e-mail, please send a short note to senrjlinek@senate.michigan.gov

Order Free Annual Credit Report

To prevent Michigan residents from becoming victims of identity theft, which thousands of Americans fall prey to each year, credit reports can be obtained for free, once a year. To obtain a copy of your report, go online to www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free 1.877.322.8228. Use caution when ordering your report, especially online, and be aware of scams and fraudulent sites. Check out the Consumer Alert posted by the Michigan Attorney General at www.michigan.gov/ag for helpful information.

Senior-Friendly Tax Measures

Too often, those who file their state income tax returns using paper forms have found that their refunds take far longer to receive than electronic returns. This can be distressing, especially for seniors, who often depend on their returns to provide for necessary but expensive items, such as prescription drugs, and to help pay their taxes.

To assist seniors in receiving their refunds in a timely manner, legislation has been introduced that requires the state Department of Treasury to notify, within ten days, a taxpayer whose return is selected for manual review. Treasury will also be required to include an approximate time frame for the

review and contact information for someone at the Department who can assist the taxpayer with any questions.

Additional legislation has been introduced that will raise the income threshold, for people who qualify, to defer the due date of their summer taxes until February 15. Currently at \$25,000, the bill increases the allowable gross household income to \$35,000 in 2005 and eventually to \$40,000 in 2007. Due to the recent date change to summer for collection of county taxes, many people have increased tax bills. This legislation will definitely be helpful to seniors who have been financially impacted by the tax date change.

Grandparent Visitation Guidelines Enacted

I am very pleased to say that legislation to restore grandparent visitation was passed into law in January.

PA 542 of 2004 allows grandparents to seek grandparenting time under one or more of the following circumstances:

- Pending or finalized divorce, separate maintenance, or marriage annulment of child's parents;
- Parent of child is deceased;
- Parents have never married and are not residing in the same household and paternity has been established;
- Unless otherwise provided, legal custody of the child has been given to a person other than the child's parent, or the child does not reside in the home of the parent; and/or
- Grandparent has provided previous (1 year) established custodial situation.

Grandparents perform a vital role in a child's learning experience and I am pleased that Michigan has acknowledged and honored this role.

MEDICATION WALLET CARD...
This business-sized card is great for keeping track of important medical information and can fit right in your wallet. To order, please call my office at 1.866.305.2121 or e-mail me at senrjlinek@senate.michigan.gov

